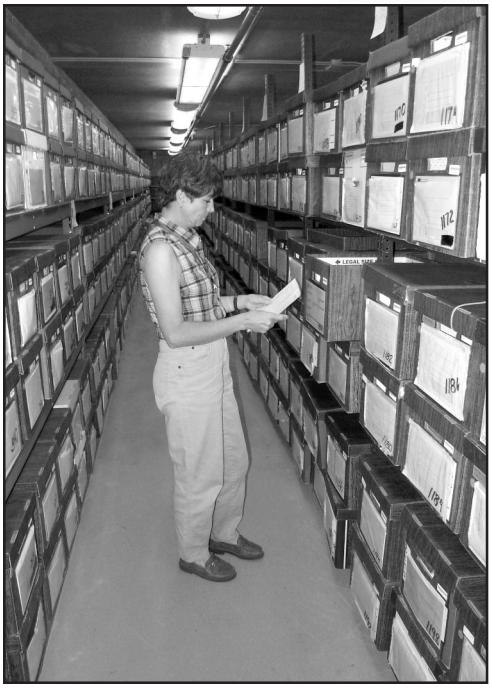
Long-Term Stewardship Pilot Projects Approved



Long-term stewardship personnel and stakeholders rely on archived and active records to provide information about custodial sites. The Data/Records Access Pilot Project endeavors to broaden external access to these records by making them available on the Internet.

The national Long-Term Stewardship Program issued a call for pilot projects that would aid individual U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) sites, especially closure sites, in resolving barriers to transitioning to long-term stewardship and that would help resolve long-term stewardship implementation issues across the DOE complex.

In response to this call, the DOE Grand Junction Office (GJO) submitted two proposals in May 2001 that focused on information and data management. Twenty-one proposals were submitted and nine were selected. DOE–GJO received approval and funding to proceed with both its projects: the Data/Records Access for Stakeholders Pilot Project and the Geographical Information System Pilot Project.

Data/Records Access for Stakeholders Pilot Project

The GJO Long-Term Stewardship Data/Records Access for Stakeholders Pilot Project and two other pilot projects that focus on information management submitted by other DOE offices were selected for funding. All three projects are being coordinated through the DOE Idaho Operations Office to realize the maximum benefit to the sites and to the national Long-Term Stewardship Program.

The Data/Records Access Project has three objectives. The first objective is to develop external access to select portions of the DOE–GJO Records Log System, to create a new master long-term stewardship website to link to other site document systems, and to establish a link from the DOE Headquarters web page to the long-term stewardship website for stewardship information. The second objective is to identify hardcopy records and documents that require scanning and formatting for placement on this new long-term stewardship website. The second objective also involves evaluating off-the-shelf records management applications to determine whether to enhance the GJO's current Records Log System or procure a new one. The third objective is to implement an Enterprise Information Portal for long-term stewardship documents across the DOE complex that provides a common, customizable user interface and search capability.

Key elements of a comprehensive stewardship program are storage, retrieval, and dissemination of information. Although the current GJO Records Log System and associated database provide a practical solution to assimilating and managing the records collections of numerous stewardship sites, the database does not provide search and access capabilities to other stakeholders (e.g., local government, other agencies, other DOE offices, and the public). The responsibility of the stewardship program to disseminate and share information has been identified in several key documents, such as *Long-Term Institutional Management of U.S. Department of Energy Legacy Waste Sites*, *The Role of Local Government in Long-Term Stewardship at DOE Facilities*, and *Managing Data for Long-Term Stewardship*.

Records databases at DOE sites are full of information, but getting value and visibility from them continues to be a challenge. Independent development of

records databases has resulted in a variety of individual, or "stovepipe," data, systems, and processes.

Tying these stovepipes together into a cohesive framework is the job of the Enterprise Information Portal. An Enterprise Information Portal interface is integrated because it provides a single point of entry to any piece of information, regardless of where it resides, as long as the file server it resides on has an Internet address. Information viewed through an Enterprise Information Portal interface is customized to match the role of the users. This feature saves users time and improves visibility of long-term stewardship information. The Enterprise Information Portal provides security by allowing users to see only the information that they are authorized to access.

The two information systems pilot projects being developed by other DOE sites are

- *Long-Term Stewardship—Information System Stewardship*, sponsored by the DOE Nevada Operations Office. The Nevada Operations Office Stewardship Information System has five key objectives:
  - — Collect a wide array of information (i.e., data, records, and documents) critical to stewardship implementation in one, easy-to-access database and add new information as it is generated.
  - — Create a system that can be updated over time as regulatory agreements change, new technologies are developed, and data requirements and needs evolve.
  - — Create a system that is easily replicable and can be customized by DOE Field Offices and DOE laboratories for use at their respective sites.
  - — Provide a compact package of data for transfer to the Program Secretarial Office or other landlord (e.g., the National Nuclear Security Administration, a state, or federal agency) upon completion of environmental management projects.
  - — Create a database to retrieve information more efficiently on data issues to address calls from DOE Headquarters, state regulators, and stakeholders.
- *SMART (Stewardship Management Archival/Retrieval Tool)*, sponsored by the DOE Oak Ridge Operations Office. The primary objective of SMART is to have a user-friendly, intuitive, web-based information system that contains comprehensive stewardship data. Data in the SMART system will be added in phases. SMART will serve as a unifying tool, bringing site stewards, regulators, citizens, and other stakeholders together to better understand and address stewardship issues and needs.

Geographical Information System Pilot Project

The other DOE–GJO pilot project that was selected is the development of a web-enabled Geographical Information System (GIS) for sites currently managed by the DOE–GJO Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance (LTSM) Program. This Internet-based GIS

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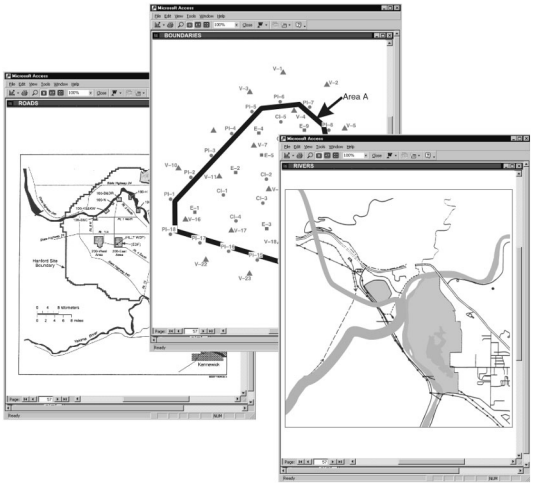

An Internet-based Geographical Information System will allow stakeholders to access technical data about sites in the Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance Program and view the information on site maps.

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will allow dynamical mapping and technical information display on a site-by-site basis. A displayed map may show information such as disposal cell boundaries, site boundaries, adjacent land ownership and use boundaries, rivers, roads, fences, topography, and contaminant plume information. The technical information associated with features on this map may include data such as well locations, well completion details, water levels, sampling and analysis information, and access agreement information.

Currently, map and technical information for stewardship sites is generally accessible only to LTSM Program personnel. Anticipated users of this web-based GIS include DOE, contractor staff members, the regulatory community, stakeholders, and the public.

Both DOE–GJO long-term surveillance pilot projects are scheduled to be completed by the end of fiscal year 2002. For more information about the GJO pilot projects, contact John Gilmore, DOE–GJO Project Manager, at (970) 248–6027.❖